THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

VOLUME VIII, NO. 3 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS MARCH, 1954

TWO MILLION VOLT X-RAY MACHINE ARRIVES

The long-awaited two million volt x-ray therapy machine has finally arrived. On March tenth workmen lowered the unassembled parts of the machine into the sub-basement room that will house it.

Installation of the machine began immediately, and it will be ready for testing in about a month.

This super-voltage x-ray machine, weighing close to six tons, is designed for the special treatment of carefully selected cancer patients requiring deep therapy. It provides radiation in greater quantity than one million dollars' worth of radium.

The rotational chair technique, a recent development, will permit more intense radiation to be concentrated on deep tumors without damage to the healthy intervening tissues and will attack the cancer growth from all sides. With the new machine, a centrally placed tumor may receive as much as 400 per cent of the radiation that is received by any part of the patient's skin.

It is interesting to note that this is the same type of machine that is used in shipyards and foundries for x-ray inspection of castings and welded joints.

Concrete walls two feet thick have been built into the sub-basement room that houses the machine. Moreover, the concrete used is denser and stronger than the mixture normally used for foundations. The room itself is 24 feet by 28 feet; the ceiling height is 21 feet, 6 inches.

The machine and its housing, including dressing and examining rooms, costs approximately $210,000.

According to Dr. Joseph Marks, Radiologist-in-Chief, the x-ray tube will at all times be directed into the ground so that no employee, working in any other part of the hospital, will ever be damaged by radiation from the machine.

RED CROSS TALLY

Miss Ellen Adams, Personnel Director and chairman of the hospital's Red Cross drive, announced that employees had contributed $480.75 to the fund this year. We wish to thank all who worked for the Red Cross during this drive.

FIRST BIRTHDAY

On March fifteenth the Friends of the Deaconess Coffee Shop celebrated its first birthday. 72,751 customers were served during the first year of operation. These people drank 45,994 cups of coffee and ate 16,048 sandwiches.

Total receipts for the year amounted to $19,304.91, while expenses were $11,507.67, thus showing a profit of $7,797.24.

The Volunteers are truly "pearls without price" as they carry on this project. The cooperation of all departments in the hospital has been magnificent, and the delicious home-cooked foods donated to the shop by members of the hospital family are very much appreciated.

As we start our second year of operation, we say a hearty "thank you" to all of our customers.

Friends of the Deaconess.

THE PULSE

MARCH, 1954
NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL
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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

The New England Deaconess Hospital is a credit to the community. Its record of service, both past and present, stands for everyone to see. The upkeep is a tremendous job, and the Housekeeping Department is doing its best to keep it as clean as time and strength permit.

A large sum of money is spent for sand urns and receptacles for refuse. Yet, due to absent-mindedness or negligence, candy bar or gum wrappers are dropped on the floor; or even worse, a cigarette butt is dropped and ground into the floor. This spoils the looks of the floors and is an added burden for the Housekeeping staff. Again, when visitors or new patients arrive and notice this litter, it is unfair publicity both for the hospital and for those who try to keep it clean.

Housekeeping falls on each one of us, and in these little things we should all share the responsibility.

MARY L. ALLEN
Executive Housekeeper

(Editor's Note: In the March issue of the American Hospital Association's publication, *"This Month,"* we learned that a recent public opinion poll conducted at one hospital proved that patients comment more often on housekeeping than on any other hospital service. Housekeeping is the service that patients, employees, visitors, and others can best evaluate.)

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

We are happy to welcome to the hospital family Miss Mildred E. Campbell, who is in charge of our new Physiotherapy Department, the latest addition to our patient care program. Miss Campbell received her Bachelor of Science degree in education from Sargent College and did graduate work in physical therapy at Harvard University. She has worked as a physiotherapist at Lahey Clinic, Children's Hospital, and the Massachusetts Hospital School.

The new department, which is now partially in operation, is located on Central II in Room 203. New equipment has been ordered and will be set up as soon as it arrives.

Miss Heloise E. Withee, '43, has been named new director of nursing of the District Nursing Association, South Portland, Maine.

EXCHANGE NURSES

The hospital extends a cordial welcome to the four exchange nurses who have come to the Deaconess from other countries for experience in their special fields of interest. The girls, who applied to their own national nursing associations and then to the International Council of Nurses, were placed by the American Nurses Association under the State Department's Exchange Visitors Program. The program, designed to give the nurses clinical experience, includes lectures in each girl's field of interest.

Miss Elvire Bonny and Miss Louise Remy, graduates of the Ecole D' Infirmieres, Hopital General, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, are here for experience in surgical nursing. Last year they both studied at the Language School, Queens College, New York. In addition to work at her own hospital, Louise Remy has had post-graduate training in public health nursing, and has worked as a public health nurse in schools and clinics. Elvire Bonny has also done graduate work in public health.

Miss Ragnheidur Frimannsdottir from Reykjavik, Iceland, received her training at the State Hospital, Landsspitalinn. She has worked in Obstetrics and in the Medical Department and, on her return home, plans to do surgical nursing. She is particularly interested in the Recovery Room here at the Deaconess.

Miss Ingegerd Vejrup was assistant head nurse in the Premature Ward of Sahlgren's Hospital, Sweden. She is here for medical nursing experience and will spend six months at Children's Hospital for work in Pediatrics. Following her stay in this country, Miss Vejrup will return to Sweden to work in the Children's Ward at Gothenburg.

In the near future we expect two nurses from Denmark and one from Switzerland. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to meet these visitors from abroad.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE

Dr. Shields Warren was recently appointed to the New England Atomic Energy Committee. This ten member group seeks to bring about more effective participation in the nuclear power program by the northeastern states. They will survey the area with a view to peace time use of atomic energy.

Also named to the committee were the following: Sumner Pike, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and member of the Deaconess Hospital Corporation; and Dr. Carl T. Compton, chairman of the corporation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a former member of the Deaconess Corporation.

FOR SALE

Key chains and paper weights are being sold in the Pharmacy store. The 1955 juniors are sponsoring the sale of these items in order to raise money for their year book. Buy yours today!

Photo by J. Coyne

Obtaining nursing experience at the New England Deaconess Hospital are (left to right): Louise Remy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Ragnheidur Frimannsdottir, Reykjavik, Iceland; Elvire Bonny, Haiti; and Ingegerd Vejrup, Sweden.

AMBASSADOR OF GOOD WILL

Like Will Rogers, our genial doorman Ralph O'Neil has "never met a man he did not like." This enthusiasm for people, coupled with a warm, sparkling personality, explains his success in making Deaconess patients and their visitors feel like a million dollars.

Mr. O'Neil came to work at the hospital after a serious illness because his doctors would not allow him to return to his old job as a bus driver for the MTA. This job at the Deaconess has been like medicine for him, according to Mr. O'Neil. His concern for the patients he meets here has made him forget his own problems.

All the members of the O'Neil family have musical ability. An accomplished singer, Mr. O'Neil received a voice scholarship from the MacDowell Club and studied under Elsie Windsor Bond. He was a soloist at St. Jerome's Church in Arlington for eighteen years and has sung in many other churches of all denominations as well. He has also directed amateur minstrel shows. In fact, he has just completed a book of instructions on how to put on such a show.

At one time he had his own radio program, "The Ralph O'Neil Show," and was accompanied by his wife who plays piano and organ. Mrs. O'Neil was formerly the State Chairman of Music for the Massachusetts Congress of Parent Teacher Associations. Their three daughters are dancing instructors and have their own studio in Arlington called "The O'Neil Sisters."

Naturally, Ralph O'Neil is very proud of his talented family. Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, he later moved to Cambridge and went to Rindge Technical High School. He married the girl next door and settled in Arlington.

When queried about his likes and dislikes, Mr. O'Neil answered, "I like all types of music (from opera to jazz), dancing and people." He enjoys sports, as a spectator now rather than as a participant, and he likes to putter in his garden.

A very active member of the Elks, Mr. O'Neil won a state championship as Esquire last year. His wife is president of the Arlington Emblem Club, the Women's Auxiliary of the Elks.

The MTA received many letters of commendation about Mr. O'Neil's work during his thirty-six years of employment there. His former employer tells us that Mr. O'Neil has one of the finest personalities of anyone he knows. "If I had 2,750 more like him, I wouldn't have a job," he said.

With his cheerful "hello" and pleasant remarks to all who enter the doors of the Deaconess Hospital, Ralph O'Neil is indeed an ambassador of good will.

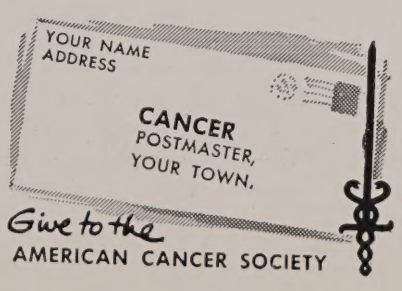
WHERE THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

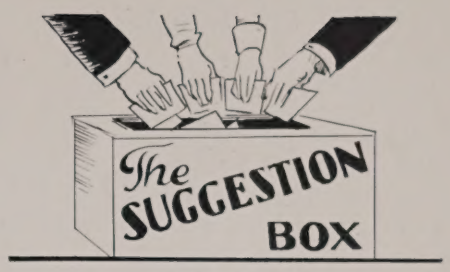
"Great areas of Africa are untouched by medical care except for the medicine men and witch doctors who still exist there," Mrs. John Wesley Lord told the Friends of the Deaconess at a meeting held March eighteenth.

According to Mrs. Lord's observations on her recent tour of South Africa, all the hospitals are greatly understaffed; some have no doctors and are staffed by nurses and by African girls who are trained as nursing aids. She described one hospital as resembling a Rube Goldberg cartoon. Patients were everywhere — on beds, under beds, lying in corridors. Early in the morning hundreds gathered outside to await treatment.

Many of these hospitals have no generators or pumping systems. Lighting is provided by lanterns, and water is heated outside over an open fire and carried inside for use.

Mrs. Lord urged the nurses here to give their old, worn uniforms to her, to be sent to the nurses and aids in South Africa.





AWARDS

Miss Marjorie LeBeau, administrative assistant in the Dietary Department, and Miss Rosalie Gibson, Harris Hall secretary, have been given duplicate awards of $5 for suggestions concerning the menu board in the cafeteria.

A good suggestion may win you an award. Why not try?

ALPHA CREDIT UNION

Mr. Herman Decker has been appointed by the Commissioner of Banks to conduct the triennial verification of passbooks, beginning April first. All members should bring or send their books to him for verification.

Mr. W. Clifford Fisher has been named acting treasurer of Alpha Credit Union to serve during Mrs. Paine's vacation and at other times as needed.

NEW STOREROOM

The Purchasing Department announces the opening of a bigger and better, more efficient storeroom on Deaconess I.

BOWLING SCORES

March 17, 1954

Team No.		*Points*
3	Mr. Sabine	57
9	Mr. Spalding	55
4	Mr. Emery	49
7	Miss Hankinson	47
8	Mr. Lowry	46
6	Mr. Fisher	46
5	Miss Nihart	45
10	Mr. Bettinelli	44
1	Dr. Cook	43
2	Miss Newton	27

High Singles for March 17, 1954

Natalie Fossati	106
Klara Hankinson	106
Don Lowry	133

High Singles for the Year

Jean Gordon	133
Don Lowry	133

High 3-String Totals for the Year

Jean Gordon	315
Don Lowry	351

High Average for the Year

Jean Gordon	95
Charles Schraub	96

Financial Statement

Balance	$435.00
March 17, 1954	10.00
Total	$445.00

FORTY STUDENT NURSES CAPPED

"Today the nursing profession stands at the crossroads. It can be secularized, commercialized, and exploited for personal gain," Bishop John Wesley Lord told the forty student nurses at the traditional candlelight capping ceremony in Joslin Auditorium, March 19th.

"Never in the history of our country have nurses been in such short supply," he said. "You are in the driver's seat; you can name your own price, choose your own job. Many are bidding for your services and skills, and some of you will succumb to the lure of these tempting offers.

"By taking this road marked 'self,' thereby accepting the easy, more lucrative position, and refusing to work beyond the call of duty, you will be the poorer. You will be living in a 'something-for-nothing age.'

"But if you remember the debt you owe to others and to this hospital and take the road marked 'others,'" the Bishop continued, "you will walk with a sense of the moral and social responsibility you possess. You will do honor to the nursing profession that has thus far honored you.

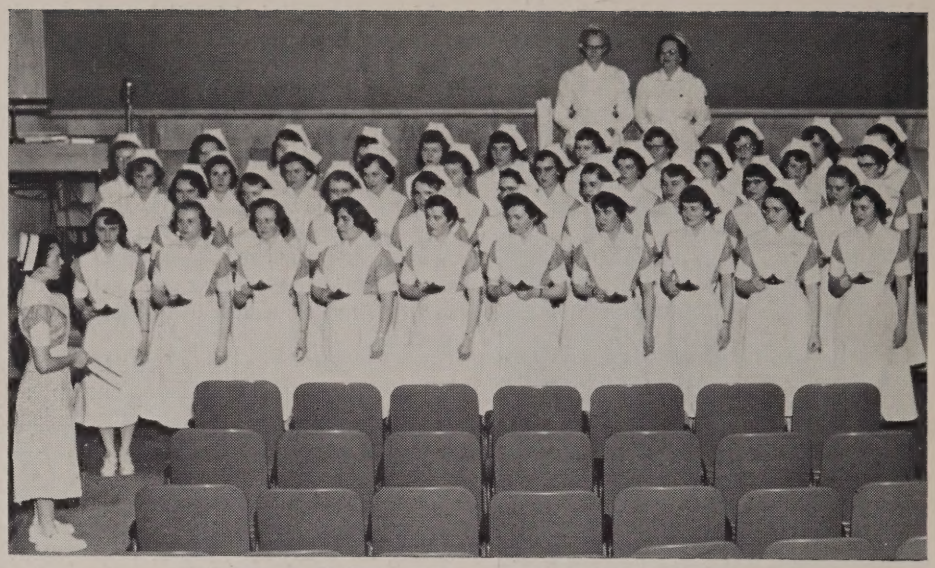
"Along this road will be dignity and spiritual awareness, and you who walk it will be immeasurably enriched. This spirit in our world is more powerful than bullets, and more precious than priceless jewels."

Miss Mildred B. Newton, Director of Nursing, presented caps to the following students:

Margaret Albright
Gwendolyn Bissell
Gail Chamberlin
Bette Lou Cook
Nancy Cook
Jean Coombs
Barbara Crouse
Paula Fay
Phyllis Gale
Janice Grannell
Gretchen Hapgood
Gloria Higuera
Barbara Howell
Barbara Hoyle
Nancy Jackson
Ruth Jordan
Mary Keenan
Bette Lees
Barbara Long
Audrey Lovell
Janice Marland
Ruth Morgan
Marilyn Nickerson
Lynn Parsons
Nancy Peabody
Marilyn Pearson
Carol Pope
Nancy Racine
Mary Reardon
Audrey Scarpetti
Joan Shaw
Margaret Snow
Joanne Spooner
Patricia Stammers
Joanne Staples
Janice Stevenson
Helen Thomas
Shirley Wilcox
Marjorie Wilkins
Helen Wolchok

NOTICE!

The Public Relations Department has received many requests for copies of the booklet published to commemorate the dedication of the new Central Building. These booklets are still available at the P. R. office on Deaconess I to anyone who did not receive a copy.



CAPPING CEREMONY — 1956 JUNIOR CLASS

NOTES FROM MAINTENANCE

We are happy to welcome back Mr. Sabine and Mr. Smith, who were both ill recently; in fact, they were hospitalized in the same room, Palmer 503 — at different times, of course.

Bonnie Beard Sack, former secretary in the Maintenance Department, is now in Japan with her husband, Dr. Theodore Sack. He will be stationed in Tokyo until 1955. In a letter to Mr. Sabine, she wrote, " . . . The best thing of all are the Japanese baths. You enter a large steam room, sit on a little stool and wash, and then ease yourself into a large pool about ten feet square filled with boiling water, or so it seems. This is nearly three feet deep with a ledge around the edge to sit on and just your head sticking out. You stay about an hour or so conversing with the others. Imagine whole families taking their baths together and discussing the national situation!"

Reported by Eve Schandelmayer.

REMINDER

The First Aid demonstrations held recently in the Cancer Research Auditorium will be repeated. Dates will be announced in the near future.

CAREFUL!

Since the first of the year we have been averaging one accident per day. Although most of these have been minor, we know that the number can be reduced if everyone is safety conscious.

Congratulations to Mary Davenport and Patricia Harris who have completed their training at the School of Nursing.

Dr. Cook has again had a slight "set back." He is now recuperating at home. We all send our very best wishes.

ENGAGEMENTS

Miss Matha Washburn, '53, staff nurse in surgery, to Robert Faulkner.

Miss Ethel Thomas, a head nurse in surgery, to Charles Fletcher.

Miss Virginia M. Ferry, staff nurse, to John W. Blake, now a student at M.I.T. A June wedding is planned.

Miss Anne Elizabeth Kenneson, '55, to Dean L. Estabrook.

MARRIAGES

Miss June Elaine Batchelder, '53, to John Robert O'Donnell. Mr. O'Donnell is a graduate of M.I.T. and is now in the U.S.A.F.

Miss Carol Stearns, staff nurse, to Nathan Ross Thornburgh.

BLESSED EVENT

To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Banks a baby girl. Mrs. Banks is a former employee in the chemistry lab. Mr. Banks is a surgical technician here.

The hospital family extends its sincere sympathy to the family of the late Dr. C. Guy Lane, who died on March 12th. Dr. Lane was nationally known as a dermatologist and served as a member of the Deaconess staff.

INOCULATIONS

Tetanus and typhoid inoculations are now being given every Tuesday from 10 to 12 in the First Aid Room. All employees are urged to take advantage of this protection.

LOSE SOMETHING?

The Lost and Found Department is located in the Assistant Director's office. All articles not claimed by April 15th will be turned over to the Thrift Shop for sale.